GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:173
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2016
Subsidy transfer from Post Offices
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to handover the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for transferring subsidy to the Department of Posts and the post bank under the said department is likely to make the payment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the department of Posts is well managed and equipped to under take the responsibility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other alternative mechanism likely to be considered for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) No Madam, there is no such proposal to handover all the Direct Benefit Transfer Schemes for transferring subsidy to the Department of Posts. At present, apart from the Department of Posts the Direct Benefit Transfers for all the schemes are handled by the PSU Banks & Cooperative Banks.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) The Department of Posts has a network of 1,54,882 Post Offices spread all over the country, more than 89% of which are in rural areas. The Department of Posts is an important channel for disbursement of MGNREGA wages and social security schemes. In 2014-15, it disbursed Rs 3,398 Crores as MGNREGA wages through 23.6 lakh post office accounts apart from pension payments through both accounts and money orders under the National Pension Scheme. As on 19/2/2016, 17,507 Departmental offices are operating on the Core Banking Solution (CBS) and 515 ATMs have been installed. All 1,29,389 rural post offices are being equipped with Micro ATMs by March 2017 for disbursement of payments of various types. The Department is also continuously strengthening its cash management system to ensure availability of adequate cash out facility at the last mile. With the setting up of the India Post Payments Bank the Department will also be adopting other state of the art technologies in line with developments in mobile and payments technology to further streamline the process and deliver these services optimally.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

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